



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

November 19, 2013

Sports United Soccer Envoy Program Kicks Off

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce the kickoff of the “Sports Unites Us” Sports Envoy soccer program this Friday, November 22 at 4pm at the Yangon University sports field. Accomplished U.S. professional soccer athletes Lorrie Fair and Cobi Jones, and Coach Jay Hoffman, will serve as ‘sports envoys’, bringing their soccer expertise to Yangon and then to Mon State, where they will conduct youth soccer clinics and teach leadership skills to coaches and youth from across the country. The envoys will use the power of soccer to bring diverse communities together and promote peace, tolerance, and diversity through sports.

The action-packed week will begin at Yangon University’s sports field, where U.S. Ambassador Derek Mitchell and the soccer envoys will oversee the distribution of more than 5,000 One World Futbols – which are nearly indestructible -- donated by U.S. automobile company Chevrolet and the [One World Futbol Project](#). This donation is part of Chevrolet’s founding sponsorship of One World Futbol Project. Chevrolet has pledged to support the donation and distribution of 1.5 million One World Futbols to organizations around the globe using sport and play to teach conflict resolution, gender equality and essential life skills. In this country, the One World Futbols will be distributed to local youth and organizations such as Football United, MercyCorps, Girl Determined and Save the Children, with whom the Embassy is cooperating to organize this program.

The envoys will then travel to Mon State, where they will hold clinics and training opportunities for local residents in Mawlamyine. The activities will culminate in an equipment donation ceremony on Sunday, November 24 at 4:00pm at the Mon State Stadium.

The Sports Envoys are an accomplished, dedicated group. Lorrie Fair, a World Cup champion and Olympic medalist, has served several times as a Sports Envoy for the State Department, most recently in November 2012 in Afghanistan. Cobi Jones holds the all-time record of 164 international games played for the U.S. Men’s National Team, and is a veteran of three World Cup competitions. Coach Jay Hoffman boasts a 40-year coaching career on the collegiate and international levels.

The [SportsUnited](#) Division of the State Department’s Education and Cultural Affairs oversees the Department’s sports diplomacy programming. The Bureau encourages the involvement of traditionally underrepresented audiences in grants, programs, and activities. Since 2003, ECA’s SportsUnited has brought nearly 1,000 athletes from more than 60 countries to the U.S. to participate in sports visitor programs, while sending over 220 U.S. athletes to more than 50 countries on sports envoy programs.



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Funding and logistics for this activity were provided by USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, working in close conjunction with the Myanmar YMCA. The U.S. Embassy thanks the Ministry of Education and the Mon State Government for their assistance and cooperation with these events.

For all inquiries from the local press, including how to attend press events or schedule interviews with the envoys, please contact USEmbassyRGNPRESS@state.gov or call 01-536-509 ext. 4374 or 4372.

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